

REMARKS

Claims 8-32 are all of the claims currently pending in the application. Independent claims 30-32 are newly added via this response.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, Applicants elect, without traverse, the invention identified by the Examiner as Group I, i.e., claims 8-13 and 27-29. Moreover, in response to the election of species requirement, Applicants elect, without traverse, Group I and Species I (Figs. 1-6), upon which at least claims 8, 11, 27 and 30 are readable. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications directed to the non-elected claims/species in due course.

With regard to amended claim 8, support for "a light-shielding member" is found in the instant specification, for example, at page 31, lines 10-22, wherein "a side plate portion 48B at a long edge side" and "a side plate portion 48C at a short edge side" are disclosed (and shown in Fig. 4). Amended claim 9 finds support for "a light-shielding member" at page 49, lines 5-12, which discloses "a pressing member 120" as shown in Fig. 8A, and amended claim 10 finds support for "a light-shielding member" at page 57, lines 2-6, which discloses "a spacer 146 which abuts over the entire peripheral edge portion on the lower surface of the opening/closing lid 144 when the opening/closing lid 144 is in the closed state" as shown in Fig. 10A.

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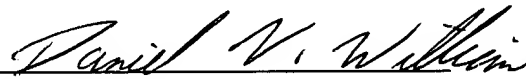
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In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby earnestly solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue Fee and/or the Publication Fee) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860


Daniel V. Williams
Registration No. 45,221

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**APPENDIX
MARKED VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE**

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is amended as follows:

Page 33, 1st full paragraph:

The opening/closing lid 48 is provided with a light-shielding portion [(not shown)] which adheres over the entire peripheral edge portion of the upper opening in a state in which the box main body 46 is covered. Due to this light-shielding portion of the opening/closing lid 48, light is prevented from entering the interior of the printing plate packaging box 28 through the clearance between the box main body 46 and the opening/closing lid 48.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

8. (Twice Amended) A printing plate packaging box comprising:

a box main body which accommodates a bundle of photosensitive printing plates and which is provided with a supply opening through which the photosensitive printing plates are taken out; [and]

an opening/closing lid which is removably attached to said box for opening/closing the supply opening; and

a light-shielding member which prevents direct entry of light from outside into the inside of the box main body, provided in the vicinity of a zone in which the box main body and the opening/closing lid are contacted to each other in an assembled state.

9. (Twice Amended) A printing plate packaging box comprising:

a box main body which accommodates a bundle of photosensitive printing plates and which is provided with a supply opening through which the photosensitive printing plates are taken out; [and]

an opening/closing lid which is swingably attached to said box for opening/closing the supply opening; and

a light-shielding member which prevents direct entry of light from outside into the inside of the box main body, provided in the vicinity of a zone in which the box main body and the opening/closing lid are contacted to each other in an assembled state.

10. (Twice Amended) A printing plate packaging box comprising:

a box main body which accommodates a bundle of photosensitive printing plates and which is provided with a supply opening through which the photosensitive printing plates are taken out; [and]

an opening/closing lid which is slidably attached to said box for opening/closing the supply opening; and

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a light-shielding member which prevents direct entry of light from outside into the inside of the box main body, provided in the vicinity of a zone in which the box main body and the opening/closing lid are contacted to each other in an assembled state.

New claims 30-32 are added.